

but we're talking again...

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.)

SENATOR LABEDZ: ...thank you, Mr. President, thank you very much. My bill attempts to keep our commitment to those low income homeowners in Nebraska by keeping the exemption level on their homestead current with the increasing property tax valuations. I know that we've talked about property tax relief at length and I want to say to the outstate senators, and I hope they're listening. When Amendment 4 came into Douglas County on our ballot, in my district it was about 7two percent said, yes, the farmer should be given a break even though it may cost some of the urban senators more in property tax, the farmer should be given a property tax relief. When Amendment 300 came into Douglas County again there was concern for the outstate senators and their constituents. They voted a high percentage, I think that was even higher than 7two percent, to save the family farm because they compared the family farm with their own home and living in their own home. So I am asking the outstate senators, even though this would probably benefit Douglas County, Lancaster County and Sarpy County, because they had the greatest increase in valuation, that they support this bill. The people of Omaha, the people in my district, which is a very poor district and many of those people are retired, voted overwhelmingly for Amendment 4, voted overwhelmingly to give the farmers a break. They want the farmer to keep this family farm. They don't want big corporations to take it over. Good or bad, they voted for it because they knew that's what the farmer wanted. Now we're asking you to allow the elderly to be able to stay in their home. Now I did pass out before, and I do have a handout that I failed to give out because I didn't know whether we were going to come to this or not, but I want you to look that over carefully because according to the Douglas County Assessor, Frank Bemis, the elderly that are on the homestead exemption now, their values of their home was increased by an average of 5four percent, 40 percent overall, but those that were on the homestead exemption at least 5four percent. LB 556 as written will not increase the income guidelines to expand those that are eligible for the program and I know that we all share the same burden of property taxes and it was brought up at one time when I tried to bring this bill out of committee. The younger senators said, hey, we've got to worry about the young